5 year Tax Holiday in the budget of 2007-08, for new hotels of 2, 3 and 4 star category coming up between 1.4.2007 to 31.3.2010 in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the districts of Faridabad, Gurgaon, Gautam Budh Nagar and Ghaziabad. A five year Tax Holiday was also announced in the budget of 2008-09 for hotels of 2, 3 and 4 star category located in all UNESCO declared World Heritage sites (except Mumbai and Delhi) which start operating ***w.e.f.*** 01.04.2008 to 31.3.2013.

Trained manpower for tourism industry

2980. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of trained manpower in tourism industry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to train the unemployed youth under SJRY scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the scheme would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) It is a fact that there is a shortage of trained manpower in hospitality industry. Under the component Skill Training for Employment Promotion amongst Urban Poor (STEP-UP) of the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY), assistance is provided to the States/Union Territories for skill training. STEP-UP intends to provide training to the urban poor in a variety of service, business and manufacturing activities as well as in local skills and local crafts. The Ministry of Tourism has launched a special programme to create employable skills amongst youth. The programme is open to a person who is at least eighth pass and in the age group of 18 to 25 years. The programme is offering two courses: one of 6 weeks duration in Food and Beverage Service and the other of 8 weeks duration in Food Production.

Project proposals from Chhattisgarh

†2981. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the projects for which proposals to get Centre's share have been received from Chhattisgarh alongwith the time thereof;

(b) the number of those approved out of these with amount sanctioned thereof; and

(c) whether information regarding the remaining ones is still to come, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.